

while those which have outlived their utility can be adandoned altogether. Other economy measures initiated by the Government in the past few years include curbs on expenditure on travel including foreign travel, expenditure on conferences, seminars, publicity, fuel consumption, deferment of festivals, fairs, exhibitions and international conferences wherever firm commitments have not already been made. The Budget for 1991-92 contained a number of measures to curtail expenditure. Among the major items is the abolition of export subsidies. All Ministries have been asked to cut expenditure by 5% and surrender 10% of the telephone lines.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact decrease in expenditure on account of the abovementioned measures. Less expenditure as a result of economy measures effected is not accounted for separately/distinctly. The expenditure finally adjusted against a particular head is the net position taking into account the additional requirements offset by savings due to economy measures. The net expenditure would have been higher but for measures taken to curtail the expenditure.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Import of Silk from China**

805. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether silk is being imported from China;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of silk imported during the last one year;

(c) the policy laid down by the Govern-

ment for the distribution of this imported silk; and

(d) the quantity of this silk given to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). Due to outbreak of Pebrine disease in the rearing areas of major silk producing States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, there was decline in the arrivals of cocoons in the cocoon markets, which ultimately affected the availability as well as prices of raw silk in the country. The Central Silk Board and the concerned State Governments have already initiated various measures for control of the disease.

In order to stabilize the prices of raw silk and to provide raw silk to the weavers at reasonable rates, the Government of India has permitted import of 200 Metric Tonnes of raw silk by the Central Silk Board and designated agencies. The organisations have the choice to import silk from any source depending on their requirements. However it is likely that most of the imports will be from china.

The imported raw silk will be distributed to weavers through State agencies such as State Handloom Development Corporation, State Apex Handloom Weavers Societies, National Handloom Development Corporation and State Directors of Handloom & Textiles. In the first instance, 15 metric tonnes of raw silk have been earmarked for Karnataka.

#### **Development of Waterways**

806. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop water transport in Ganga, Sarau,